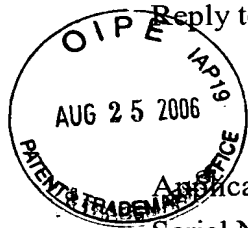


U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/080,647  
Attorney Docket No. 10746/31  
Reply to Final Office Action of 03/31/06



Attorney Docket No. 10746/31

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Eiichi Horita et al.  
Serial No. : 10/080,647  
Filed : February 22, 2002  
For : DISTRIBUTED DIGITAL SIGNATURE GENERATION METHOD  
AND DIGITALLY SIGNED DIGITAL DOCUMENT GENERATION  
METHOD AND APPARATUS  
Examiner : Matthew E. Heneghan  
Art Unit : 2134  
Confirmation No. : 8170  
Customer No. : 26646

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER A FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

S I R:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on March 31, 2006 (the three-month response date for which has been extended by two months from June 30, 2006 to August 31, 2006 by the accompanying RCE Transmittal and Petition to Extend) , reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested in view of the following.

**Amendments to the Claims** are found in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 839711555 US**